

Confidential

# Foreign Report

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## Two new Soviet strategic missiles

Within four months, the Soviet Union has launched two new intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). In a top-secret report, the American Central Intelligence Agency describes the two missiles as the PL-4 and the PL-5. With these launchings, the Soviet Union appears to have violated the 1980 Salt-2 treaty, which has not been ratified by the United States, in three ways.

The PL-4 was launched on October 26th. Apparently the first stage failed to ignite and the test was aborted. It seems to be a variation of the misrved, four-warhead SS-17. It uses solid fuel (unlike most Soviet missiles). Solid fuel is easier for ground crews to handle; its use enables scientists to make missiles more accurate. All American missiles except the ageing Titans use it.

The PL-4 was also tested last December. The Soviet ambassador to the United States, **Anatoly Dobrynin**, informed the state department about it and said that this was the one new missile allotted to the Soviet Union under the terms of Salt-2.

The second missile, the PL-5, was launched from the remote Plesetsk range on February 8th. It is light, mobile and inter-continental. It is described as a variation of the SS-16. This was an enlargement by a third-stage rocket of the SS-20, which cannot reach beyond west European targets; it was banned under Salt-2.

According to the CIA, the three violations of Salt-2 are:

- The testing of the PL-5 violates article four of Salt-2's Agreed Statements and Common Understandings referring to the SS-16.
- The PL-5 violates article four's limit of only one new land-based missile being tested by each signatory. For the Soviet Union, the argument runs, the PL-4 is the new missile; for the United States it will be the MX.
- For the first time, the Soviet Union has encrypted all of its radio telemetry during a test. This contravenes article 15 of Salt-2 which says that "neither party shall engage in deliberate denial of telemetric information, such as through the use of telemetry encryption, whenever such denial impedes verification of compliance with

the treaty".

Encryption makes radio transmissions from the missile to its base illegible to outsiders. Normally these transmissions, when intercepted by the Americans, allow the defence department to decide whether the missile test is in compliance with Salt. Telemetry can tell the United States the weight of the missile at launching; its carrying capacity (throw weight); the number of warheads aboard; the type of fuel; and procedures for releasing the warheads.

Soviet encryption has been increasing. Early tests of the new Soviet submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), the SS-NX-20, fired from the new Typhoon submarine, have been 80% encrypted. The remaining 20% contained enough information to enable the United States to decide what kind of missile it was. Another test of the missile late last year, however, was 95% encrypted. When the PL-4 was tested in December, says the CIA, it was 98% encrypted. The test of the PL-5 on February 8th was 100% encrypted.

These Soviet missile developments seem certain to set off a new nuclear debate in the United States. The CIA is worried about the Soviet Union's growing advantage in strategic weapons over the United States as the Americans phase out old B-52 bombers and Titan missiles and the Russians add strategic bombers.

This CIA table, which does not include the 10-warhead Soviet SS-NX-20 and the 330-odd intermediate-range SS-20s or the American MX and cruise, gives the latest American analysis:

	January 1981		July 1981		January 1983	
	USA	USSR	USA	USSR	USA	USSR
ICBMs	1,054	1,398	1,053	1,398	1,046	1,398
SLBMs	576	950	544	950	544	950
Heavy bombers	348	356	347	356	300	430
Total	1,978	2,704	1,944	2,704	1,890	2,778

## Qaddafi's Islamic corps

Colonel Muammar Qaddafi's Islamic corps made a successful debut when some of its units took part in Libya's invasion of Chad in 1980. Since then, Qaddafi has expanded it rapidly and it now has about 10,000 men. Its job is to go on assignments in Africa at Qaddafi's orders. When one of its brigades suddenly moved to the big oasis base of Al Kufra, in southern Libya, two weeks ago, tensions flared up between Libya and Sudan, Egypt and the United States.

According to FOREIGN REPORT's informants, the Islamic corps consists of about 8,500 foreigners and 1,700 Libyans. There are about 2,800 Sudanese (political dissidents, southern Christians and other opponents of Sudan's **President Numeiri**); 1,250 Chadians (mostly northerners who follow the ousted president, **Goukouni Oueddei**); about 500 Nigerian Islamic fundamentalists; 750 Egyptians; 500 Bangladeshis; and several hundred Tunisians, Iraqis, Pakistanis, Indians and Palestinians. They earn \$250 a month.

After two years under the command of officers from East Germany and Czechoslovakia, the corps now has junior officers and non-commissioned officers who have been promoted from its ranks. Only the high command is Libyan (Qaddafi is the supreme commander and his cousin, **Masoud Abed el Aziz**, is a key figure). The